

# *At a Glance*

## *Aging and Adult Services in North Carolina*

### **Introduction to *At a Glance***

This is the first issue of *At a Glance*, which the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) will use to share timely and relevant news about its work and other important happenings in the field of aging and adult services. We hope that you find the information useful and that it might lead to collaborative activities to further the well-being of seniors, younger adults with disabilities, and family caregivers. If you have questions about material in *At a Glance*, or suggestions for further publications, please contact Julie Bell at the Division of Aging and Adult Services, (919) 733-0440 or Julie.Bell@ncmail.net.

### **Register Now for the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's (GAC) Pre-White House Conference on Aging Event**

On May 18th at the Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh, the GAC will hold an official White House Conference on Aging forum to hear views on vital policy issues facing seniors, boomers, and our aging society. The GAC will then brief North Carolina's delegates to the White House Conference on Aging, which takes place next October 22-6 in Washington, DC. To get a registration form and for further information on the GAC event please visit:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/whcoa/whcoahome.htm>

For more information about the national White House Conference on Aging in October, please visit its website at:

<http://www.whcoa.gov>

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**Responding  
Today....  
Preparing for  
Tomorrow...  
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Division of Aging  
and Adult Services**

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## Mecklenburg County Commissioners Elevate Aging in Budget Priorities

In February, Mecklenburg County Commissioners gave the highest priority status to several program categories of particular importance to older and disabled adults—*Adult Abuse/Neglect Prevention and Protection*; *Adult Mental Illness Prevention and Treatment*; and *Aging-in-Place Support Services*. Using criteria the Commissioners termed “investment value” - relevance, performance, and efficiency - they directed the County Manager to develop his Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2006 based on these preliminary priorities. It is noteworthy that Aging-in-Place Support Services was not a top priority in Fiscal Year 2005. It is also significant that Mecklenburg County has made a major commitment to local planning for older adults—see

[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/ltc/localplanning.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/ltc/localplanning.htm)



## More Than \$4 Million Lost to Telemarketing Fraud

The State Attorney General’s Office has reported that in cases that it has tracked and handled since the year 2000, NC victims of telemarketing fraud have lost \$4,275,884. Because a significant number of these victims are seniors, DAAS co-chairs the NC Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force and publishes consumer fraud and deceptive trade practice alerts. For details, see:

[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/fraud/alert.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/fraud/alert.htm)



## Emerging Cost-Effective Option for Home Care

In its February report to the General Assembly, DAAS concluded that the Special Assistance (SA) In-Home Program is a cost-effective option for older and disabled adults who are at risk of placement in an adult care home. Currently, the SA In-Home Program is available through county departments of social services in about 63 counties. You can see details about the program and the report at:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/ltc/SAInHomeFinalReport2005.pdf>

## Family Caregivers are Still the Backbone of Long-Term Care



“Informal caregivers, primarily family, but also friends and volunteers,” remain an integral part of the critical assistance for persons needing long-term care—so concluded a recent report of the Georgetown Center on an Aging Society. The report can be found at:

<http://ihcrp.georgetown.edu/agingsociety/pubhtml/caregiver1/caregiver1.html>

For more information on what North Carolina is doing through its Family Caregiver Support Program, see:

[www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/fcaregr/fchome.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/fcaregr/fchome.htm)

## Representatives Bordsen and Farmer-Butterfield Named Co-Chairs of House Aging Committee

The new chair persons of the Aging Committee in the State House for the 2005-2006 Session are Representatives Alice L. Bordsen of Mebane and Jean Farmer-Butterfield of Wilson. You can find a list of the other members at:

[http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/committee\\_lists/interimcommittees.pl?nBoardID=77](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/committee_lists/interimcommittees.pl?nBoardID=77)

Among the current state legislation of special interest to aging advocates are bills to reenact the long-term care insurance tax credit and to phase out the county share for Medicaid and Special Assistance. For a list of these bills, see:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/legsum2004.pdf>

## NC Needs to Improve in Terms of Active Aging and Chronic Disease

Two recently released national reports raise concerns about the status of NC's seniors in terms of healthy aging. The National Governor's Association (NGA) reported that NC's seniors rank 3rd lowest among states in physical activity participation and 10th highest in having activity limitations. The full report is available at:

[www.nga.org/center/databook04/](http://www.nga.org/center/databook04/)



The Merck Institute of Aging & Health shared similar disturbing indicators in its 2004 report, including that NC's seniors ranked among the highest in reporting physically unhealthy days, mental distress, poor dental health, and obesity.

This report is available at:

[www.miahonline.org/press/content/11.22.04\\_SOA\\_Report.pdf](http://www.miahonline.org/press/content/11.22.04_SOA_Report.pdf)

***NC's Seniors rank  
3rd lowest in  
physical activity in  
the Nation***

## Wilson County Senior Friendly Community Kick-Off Event

On May 4, 2005, Wilson County is holding a Senior Friendly Community kick-off event from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Wilson County Agricultural Center. A major success of Wilson County's Senior Friendly Community Initiative is the building of strong public and private partnerships including, among others, the Upper Coastal Area Agency on Aging, Wilson County Manager's Office, UNC IOA Leadership Program, Wilson County Dept. of Senior Services, AARP, WilMed Silver Services, Citizens for a Healthier Wilson County, Barton College Gerontology Program, United Way of Wilson County, Wilson Chamber of Commerce, and the Wilson Community Improvement Association. For more information about this event, please contact Judy Mansell, UNC IOA Senior Leader, at the Wilson County Senior Center, (252) 206-4067 or by emailing her at [familycaring@yahoo.com](mailto:familycaring@yahoo.com).



# Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

## April

**13-15:** NC Association on Aging Annual Conference, in Wrightsville Beach. This is an event for local aging service providers. This year's conference includes an official Pre-White House Conference on Aging forum on the Older Americans Act and related programs. For details, see [http://www.ncaoa.org/north\\_carolina\\_association\\_on\\_ag.htm](http://www.ncaoa.org/north_carolina_association_on_ag.htm)

**21-22:** Geriatric Mental Health, in Raleigh. **Also being offered on May 24-25.** This four-day event provides knowledge and skills for work with older adults with mental disorders and their families. It contains modules on normal aging; an overview of mental disorders in older adults; specialized assessment techniques; and information on legal issues and community resources. \*\*

## May

**Older Americans Month.** This year's theme is "Celebrate Long-Term Living!" As part of its celebration, the US Administration on Aging is sponsoring a National Photography Contest to enhance the image of older Americans to all generations through pictures. Any non-professional photographer, age 60 or older, representing a Senior Center, is eligible to participate. For details, see [www.aoa.gov/press/oam/oam.asp](http://www.aoa.gov/press/oam/oam.asp). For additional information on North Carolina's celebration of Older American's Month, please visit: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/oamonth/oamain.htm>

**18:** Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's Pre-White House Conference on Aging Event. See article on page 1.

## June

**7:** *Working with Clients with Cognitive Disabilities*, in Asheville. This workshop reviews cognitive disabilities and their causes, teaches strategies for assessment, and provides opportunities to practice communication skills with clients. \*\*

**\*\* For details on workshops marked with a \*\*, and to register online, please go to <http://ssw.unc.edu/cares/trnall.htm#aging>**



### ***At a Glance***

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